

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /067 W  
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R 171715Z AUG 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1095  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8027  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION BERLIN  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11951

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UR YO  
SUBJECT: FIRST DAY OF THE TITO VISIT: ATMOSPHERICS, BREZHNEV'S  
HEALTH

SUMMARY. THE CEREMONIES AND MEDIA COVERAGE CONNECTED WITH  
TITO'S ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW WERE BY SOVIET STANDARDS  
IMPRESSIVELY WARM AND EXTENSIVE. JUDGING FROM  
TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE FIRST DAY, BREZHNEV SEEMED  
IN REASONABLY GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE, AND HIS DICTION  
WAS COMPARATIVELY UNSLURRED. END SUMMARY.

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1. SOVIET TELEVISION CARRIED THE AUGUST 16 ARRIVAL  
CEREMONIES LIVE AND, DURING A DELAY WHILE THE MOTORCADE  
WAS FORMING, SHOWED FILM CLIPS OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE  
ACCOMPANIMENT OF POPULAR YUGOSLAV SONGS. ARRIVING  
ON A BOEING 727, TITO WAS ACCORDED FULL AIRPORT HONORS,  
WITH BREZHNEV LEADING THE SOVIET WELCOMING PARTY. IN  
WHAT STRIKED US AS DEFERENCE TO YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITIES,

HARD-LINERS ON INTRA-PARTY RELATIONS SUSLOV, PONOMAREV AND KATUSHEV WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FIRST DAY CEREMONIES, ALTHOUGH IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT ALL THREE WERE ON VACATION. ENTHUSIASTIC SOVIET CROWDS WERE PROVIDED AT THE AIRPORT AND ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE MOTORCADE, AND TELEVISION COVERAGE INCLUDED NUMEROUS SHOTS OF FRIENDLY MUSCOVITES WAVING SMALL YUGOSLAV AND SOVIET FLAGS AS WELL AS COLORED BALLOONS.

2. SYMBOLIC OF THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE VISIT WAS THE FACT THAT BREZHNEV CUT SHORT (OR INTERRUPTED) HIS CRIMEAN VACATION TO BE ON HAND FOR THE ARRIVAL. IN THIS REGARD, WE NOTE THAT BREZHNEV'S RETURN TO MOSCOW ON AUGUST 15 WAS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED IN THE CENTRAL NEWS MEDIA, IN CONTRAST TO 1975 AND 1976, WHEN BREZHNEV RETURNED WITHOUT FANFARE. PERHAPS THE NEW FORMALITY REFLECTS BREZHNEV'S NEW STATUS AS CHIEF OF STATE; IT MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO IMPLY THAT BREZHNEV'S RELATIVELY EARLY RETURN FROM VACATION WAS NOT OCCASIONED SOLELY BY THE TITO VISIT. (NOTE: MFS'S USA DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR TELLS US BREZHNEV WILL NOT RETURN TO YALTA.)

3. FIRST DAY CEREMONIES INCLUDED A KREMLIN AWARD CEREMONY, FULLY TELEVISED DURING THE EVENING NEWS PROGRAM, IN WHICH BREZHNEV PRESENTED TITO THE ORDER  
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OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION. BREZHNEV'S BRIEF PRESENTATION SPEECH WAS LARGELY CAST IN PERSONAL TERMS AND WAS ESSENTIALLY NON-POLEMICAL; TITO'S REPLY INCLUDED SEVERAL PLUGS FOR THE "CREATIVE APPLICATION" OF REVOLUTIONARY THEORY IN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

4. AS BEST WE COULD JUDGE FROM THE TELEVISION COVERAGE, BREZHNEV SEEMED REASONABLY FIT ON THI OCCASION, EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKED TO BE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OLDER THAN HIS REMARKABLY FIT 85-YEAR-OLD GUEST. BREZHNEV'S GAIT APPEARED WITHIN HIS NORMAL RANGE AS HE REVIEWED THE AIRPORT HONOR GUARD WITH TITO. HIS COLOR SEEMED GOOD (AS SEEN ON OUR SOVIET COLOR TELEVISION SET) AND HIS WEIGHT LOOKED TO BE DOWN A BIT. HIS DICTION SEEMED RELATIVELY UNSLURRED AS HE READ HIS PRESENTATION SPEECH DURING THE AWARD CEREMONY.  
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## Message Attributes

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